

To: Ferree, Logan[Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov]
Cc: Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]; Albright, David[Albright.David@epa.gov]; Skadowski, Suzanne[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Tue 2/17/2015 3:58:27 PM
Subject: RE: Rescheduling of Call to Discuss California Underground Injection Control Program

Logan –

Thanks for your note and we can certainly reschedule today's call due to the government shutdown in DC. I have checked the calendars of my Water Division colleagues, and it looks like my Water Division colleagues David Albright and Mike Montgomery would be available on **Wednesday at 2:00pm PT (5:00pm ET)**. I will send out a revised calendar invite and see if that works for everyone.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Ferree, Logan [mailto:Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 5:52 AM
To: Maier, Brent
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection from Rep. Jared Huffman

Brent, with the shutdown in DC due to the snow, can we reschedule today's call?

From: Maier, Brent [<mailto:Maier.Brent@epa.gov>]
Sent: 13 February, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Ferree, Logan
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection from Rep. Jared Huffman

Logan –

Thanks for your message. Let me check in with the folks in our UIC Program as to their availability for a call next week and I will follow up with you to confirm a time for a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

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San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256

From: Ferree, Logan [<mailto:Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 6:22 AM
To: Maier, Brent
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection from Rep. Jared Huffman

Brent, could we look at setting up a call sometime next week?

From: Skadowski, Suzanne [<mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>]
Sent: 12 February, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Ferree, Logan
Cc: Maier, Brent
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection from Rep. Jared Huffman

Logan,

As I mentioned in my earlier email to you, EPA's Dec. 22, 2014 letter (available [online](#)) directed the State to submit to EPA a Program Revision Plan by Feb. 6, 2015 providing for full compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) by Feb. 2017. While EPA's letter directed the State to ensure that the Plan will bring the State's injection program back into full compliance with the SDWA by 2017, EPA and the State will also continue to pursue immediate action to shut down any injection wells that are found to be in close proximity to current drinking water supply wells. On Feb. 6 EPA received the State's Program Revision Plan and will review it over the next few weeks. EPA will continue to work with the State to bring their program into compliance with the SDWA.

If you need more information or if you would like to schedule a call to discuss this issue, please follow up with Brent. Thank you.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | San Francisco
D: 415-972-3165| **C:** 415-265-2863| **E:** skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 12:03 PM
To: 'Ferree, Logan'
Cc: Maier, Brent
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection from Rep. Jared Huffman

Hi Logan,

Thanks for following up. I'm happy to work on getting a response for you as I am also involved in our overall

communications for this issue. I am checking with our program staff to answer your questions as soon as we can and will let you know shortly. In the meantime, we have recently provided more information about this issue on our website which may be helpful to you, including our recent correspondence with the state:
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/mediacenter/uic-review/>

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist

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From: Ferree, Logan [<mailto:Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:41 AM

To: Skadowski, Suzanne

Subject: RE: Question on California Injection

Suzanne, I have a follow up question, happy to talk to you or Brent about this.

I'm trying to wrap my head around how these injections can continue in some cases if the state permits were issued in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act. I saw that within California's proposal for compliance included shutting by October up to 140 wells, but my understanding is that there was more than 2,500 wells that violated the Act. What's the authority that allows them to continue to operate, at all, if their permits were improperly issued? Thanks for your help.

Logan H. Ferree

Senior Legislative Assistant

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From: Ferree, Logan
Sent: 06 February, 2015 1:59 PM
To: 'Skadowski, Suzanne'
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection

Much appreciated, thank you.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne [<mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>]
Sent: 06 February, 2015 1:46 PM
To: Ferree, Logan
Cc: Maier, Brent
Subject: RE: Question on California Injection

Hi Logan,

I'm EPA's press officer for Northern California and also our backup congressional liaison. So I'm happy to help you with this question.

You are correct, EPA's authority here is the Safe Drinking Water Act. Below is a very brief summary of a quite complex situation - EPA Region 9's review of the state of California's Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program. If you wish, I can also send you EPA's most recent letter to the state regarding our review of their permitting program and requests for actions to come into compliance with the SDWA.

On July 17 and December 22, 2014, U.S. EPA Region 9 sent letters to California's Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) (collectively, the State) highlighting concerns, providing direction and requesting information about DOGGR's implementation of its underground injection control program for oil and gas-related (Class II) wells. EPA Region 9 audited DOGGR's Class II UIC primacy program in 2011 and identified substantial implementation deficiencies and, in 2012, conducted a review of aquifer exemptions that raised questions about the alignment of injection wells with EPA-approved exemption boundaries. EPA's letters responded to DOGGR's lack of progress in addressing these issues over the prior two years. Further, in the first half of 2014, the State identified some injection wells that the State had authorized to inject Class II fluids into aquifers with less than 3,000 ppm Total Dissolved Solids (a category of aquifers that would typically warrant protection for potential future use as drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act), that EPA had not exempted, and the State subsequently shut down these injection wells. EPA has been meeting regularly with senior officials with the Department of Conservation, DOGGR, the Water Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Board to discuss the State's ongoing assessment of drinking water sources that may be impacted by improper injection, documentation pertaining to aquifer exemptions in California, and specific data about any Class II injection wells that may be injecting into non-exempt aquifers. EPA's December 22 letter directs the State to submit a Program Revision Plan by February 6, 2015 providing for full compliance with the SDWA by February 2017. While EPA's letter directed the State to ensure that the Plan will bring the State's injection program back into full compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) by 2017, EPA and the State will also continue to pursue immediate action to shut down any injection wells that are

found to be in close proximity to current drinking water supply wells.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any more information. Thank you.

Suzanne Skadowski
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From: Ferree, Logan [<mailto:Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne
Subject: Question on California Injection

Suzanne, I sent this to Brent but it looks like he's out of the office. Appreciate any help on tracking this down, but also happy to wait for Brent to get back on Monday. Enjoy your weekend.

My boss had some questions after reading the AP Article today
(http://www.thestate.com/2015/02/05/3971178_california-authorizes-oilfield.html?rh=1) about EPA's concerns with California's permitting of injection of production fluids and waste into aquifers.

Specifically, what is the hook that brings in the federal protection and EPA? Is this about compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, or I noted that some of these aquifers are under BLM lands. Or is it both?

Thanks for your help. Any additional information you're able to share would be appreciated.

Logan H. Ferree

Senior Legislative Assistant

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